Amendments to the specification

Please amend the specification by substituting the following replacement paragraphs which have been marked up to show the changes made relative to the prior version.

On page 2, lines 7-12

The relational database model provides a readily ~~understood~~ understood framework for representing, organizing and manipulating business data. Since its formal introduction by Dr. E. F. Codd in 1970 in the paper entitled "A Relational Model for Large Shared Data Banks," CACM 13(6) June, 1970, the popularity of relational technology has increased dramatically. Today, most organizations ~~implements~~ implement relational technologies in some form, and highly effective relational database management systems (RDBMS) are available at low cost for many platforms.

On page 4, lines 6-20

Preferably, means are further employed to store property data which characterizes the value data stored in the relational tables. For example, at least one or more data values should be designated as primary keys. Those primary key values are stored in the relational tables and also retained in the skeleton to permit relational join operations to link the structural information to the value data in the tables, and vice versa. In addition, property information which designates selected data values for indexing, column storage, and the like may be advantageously stored in an XML descriptor record. Selected XML elements may be designated as containing "static" data which need not or should not be used or modified by relational operations, and the data ~~values~~ value in such static elements is thus retained in its original form in the skeleton, but is not placed in relational tables. The XML descriptor record can also advantageously store (and extend) the document type definition (DTD) for the XML document and this data may be used to reconstruct the DTD and to validate the XML document before storage and after reconstruction. In addition, referential integrity constraints can be stored and used in conventional fashion by the relational database system to manage updates and deletions to data values which are logically related to other data values.

Page 6, line 29 – Page 7, line 6

As specified in the XML Recommendation, the structure and content of an XML document may advantageously be defined by a document type definition (DTD) which can be included in the same file that contains the described XML document. Alternatively, the DTD ~~an~~ can be stored separately at a uniform resource location (URL) referred to in the XML document. A DTD lists the elements, attributes and other components which the described XML document may contain, and the relationships these elements have to one another. A DTD provides a set of rules to which a valid XML document must conform, including the parent-child relationship between elements. A DTD shows how the different elements of an XML document are structured without providing any actual data.